

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 13382 221919Z
ACTION ICA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 /032 W
-----080549 221930Z /46

P 221911Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9423

UNCLAS CAIRO 13382

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: NILE FESTIVAL

1. MICHAEL SISK, PRESIDENT OF "NILE FESTIVAL FOUNDATION" VISITED EMBASSY MAY 19 AND BRIEFED PAO IN DETAIL ON STATUS OF FESTIVAL PLANS. ON PREVIOUS VISITS TO CAIRO DURING PAST THREE YEARS, HE HAS TOLD US ABOUT THIS PROJECT BUT IT ALWAYS HAD TO BE POSTPONED. THIS TIME HE SAID DATE OF FIRST FESTIVAL HAS NOW BEEN SET, FOR OCTOBER 15-28, 1978, IN LUXOR. HE SAYS PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY, ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, A SAN FRANCISCO THEATER GROUP "ACT" AND OTHER WESTERN PERFORMERS WILL BE IN LUXOR FOR THE EVENT, AND HE EXPECTS EGYPTIAN CULTURE MINISTRY WILL FIND EGYPTIAN THEATRICAL, MUSICAL AND OTHER GROUPS TO REPRESENT TRADITIONAL EGYPTIAN CULTURE THERE. FINANCING, WHICH DURING PAST THREE YEARS OF PLANNING HAD BEEN A PROBLEM, IS NOW SOLVED, ACCORDING TO SISK. BASIC COSTS OF BRINGING WESTERN PERFORMING ARTISTS TO LUXOR WILL BE COVERED FROM FOLLOWING SOURCES: (A) TWO CHARTER FLIGHT TOUR GROUPS OF 500 AMERICAN TOURISTS EACH, WHO WILL PAY THE \$5.00 ADMISSION FEES FOR EACH PERFORMANCE ON TOP OF THEIR BASIC TOUR COSTS; (B) SMITHSONIAN GRANT, NOT YET FULLY APPROVED BUT PROMISED; (C) ANTICIPATED SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 13382 221919Z

ENDOWMENTS FOR HUMANITIES AND ARTS; AND (D) SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY.

2. SISK SAYS HE RECEIVED PROMISE OF ICA SUPPORT IN CONVERSATION ONE MONTH AGO WITH HAL SCHNEIDMAN, WHO TOLD SISK ICA WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OF THREE TYPES: (A) PAY TRANSPORTATION AND "OTHER COSTS" FOR PAUL TAYLOR DANCE TROUPE

AND OTHER GROUPS, TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO COME TO EGYPT, (B) BUDGET SUPPORT FOR FESTIVAL, TO BE PROVIDED AFTER FINAL COST ESTIMATES SUBMITTED TO USICA WASHINGTON, AND (C) EGYPTIAN POUND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY USICA CAIRO TO MAINTAIN AN OFFICE IN EGYPT FOR FESTIVAL STAFF, PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM EGYPT FOR THREE FESTIVAL STAFFERS, AND ANY OTHER COSTS WE CAN COVER. SISK SAID HE UNDERSTANDS POST HAS EXCESS EGYPTIAN POUNDS WHICH COULD EASILY BE USED FOR SUCH A PROJECT.

3. PAO EXPLAINED THAT ALL POST FUNDS, INCLUDING EGYPTIAN POUNDS, ARE PART OF REGULAR POST BUDGET WHICH IS ALLOCATED FOR REGULAR POST PROGRAM, AND NO UNPROGRAMMED "EXCESS" EXISTS. PAO TOLD SISK THAT FROM HIS DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT IT UNFORTUNATELY STILL DID NOT SOUND LIKE ONE WHICH USICA CAIRO COULD SUPPORT, BECAUSE PROGRAM WOULD PROBABLY NOT REACH POST'S PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCE. ONLY GUARANTEED AUDIENCE WOULD BE THE 1000 AMERICAN TOURISTS BROUGHT IN FOR THE FESTIVAL PLUS THE HUNDREDS OF OTHER AMERICAN AND WESTERN TOURISTS WHO WOULD BE IN LUXOR IN OCTOBER. EGYPTIANS WE ARE TRYING TO REACH ARE UNLIKELY TO BE IN LUXOR THEN, OR TO PAY THE COST OF TRAVEL AND LODGING TO GO THERE FOR FESTIVAL. SISK SAYS HE "HOPES" CULTURE MINISTRY WILL CHARGE LITTLE OR NO ADMISSION FEE FOR EGYPTIANS BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZES THAT \$5 IS WAY ABOVE STANDARD EGYPTIAN ADMISSION CHARGE AND BEYOND EGYPTIAN ABILITY TO PAY. HE ALSO "HOPES"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 13382 221919Z

CULTURE MINISTRY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR EGYPTIAN STUDENTS TO GO TO LUXOR FOR FESTIVAL, AND EXPECTS THEM TO SLEEP IN TENTS THERE TO SOLVE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM. BUT THESE PLANS ARE VAGUE, AND MINISTRY HAS PROMISED NOTHING EXCEPT TO TRY TO PROVIDE EGYPTIAN PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR FESTIVAL. SISK TOLD PAO THAT MURSI SAAD AL DIN OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION HAD PROMISED L.E. 200,000 WORTH OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECT, BUT MURSI TOLD PAO TODAY THAT THIS OFFER WAS MADE 3 YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS IN DIFFERENT JOB, AND NO LONGER STANDS.

4. PAO EXPLAINED TO SISK THAT WE DO ALL OUR CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA AND EVEN IN THOSE PLACES USICA STAFF MUST MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO ENSURE LIGHTING AND OTHER FACILITIES WORK PROPERLY, AND TO GET INVITATIONS OUT AND PUBLICIZE EVENTS. SISK EXPECTS CROWDS OF EGYPTIANS WILL FLOCK TO LUXOR FOR FESTIVAL BUT POST BELIEVES THIS UNLIKELY BECAUSE SCARCE TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS ARE USUALLY MONOPOLIZED BY NON-EGYPTIAN TOURISTS, AND EGYPTIAN CULTURAL AUDIENCE NOT IN HABIT OF SPENDING THE KIND OF MONEY THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SUCH A FESTIVAL.

5. REQUEST AGENCY ADVISE POST WHAT USICA SUPPORT, IF ANY, IS PLANNED FOR NILE FESTIVAL. HAVE ADVISED SISK THAT ANY USICA SUPPORT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM WASHINGTON BUDGET. SINCE SISK SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT EXACT NATURE OF SUPPORT, POST WOULD BE GLAD TO PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO HIM IF WE RECEIVE WORD BEFORE FRIDAY MAY 26 WHEN HE PLANS TO LEAVE CAIRO. RUGH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO13382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-0986
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780535/aaaabcvl.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65c68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ICA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2620246
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NILE FESTIVAL
TAGS: SCUL, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65c68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014